

Habitat Happenings

News and Events from Runge Conservation Nature Center • November/December 2012



Technology and the Outdoors

A new way of exploring

Parents reminisce about, "When we were kids." They played in the woods, streams and most importantly dirt.

What will our children's memories be? Will they tell their children about the time they texted a buddy? While pondering this and other generational gaps the reality is youth live in a technology age that prior generations could only dream of. One of these technologies is GPS or Global Positional System. Although this technology has been around for quite some time, its availability to the general public is fairly recent.



Runge Volunteer, Bruce Berger, demonstrating how to use the GPS unit to members of the Teen Club.

A GPS unit is a handheld device that leverages satellites to determine the location of the device on earth. Many smart phones have GPS technology built in. For many outdoor enthusiasts GPS units are a great way to mark trails when hiking or mark the location of interesting flora so as to easily provide the precise location for others. Still others enjoy Geocaching.

Geocaching is an activity where someone places a "treasure" then provides coordinates to hunt it down. The coordinates are what the GPS uses to determine location. More advanced

Geocachers will solve clues or puzzles that help someone determine the coordinates. These treasures are called "caches". Caches are hidden all over the world. There are 9891 "caches" hidden through out Missouri. Many of these are hidden in parks, forests or in other natural settings.

Geocaching has allowed my family to discover many hidden natural wonders through out the state. We have even taken "family days" and spent a relaxing day enjoying the hunt for caches. Recently, we found solace by taking geocaching breaks when spending an

extended time at the St. Louis Children's Hospital. These breaks took us to some beautiful parks and conservation areas in and around the city. Who knew?

Technology and the outdoors can go together to make memories. Have fun exploring.

If you are interested in learning more about GPS and Geocaching please visit www.geocaching.com.

—Kent Hillman, Volunteer Naturalist

Volunteer News

Thanksgiving. It is a special day. It is a time to give thanks.

It is as simple as that; yet how often do we forget to express it?

The staff at Runge never want to take our volunteers for granted. We are always trying to find ways to say thank you to them for all the work they do and all of the people they help. The next time you see one of our volunteers, remember Thanksgiving.

**THANK
YOU
RUNGE
VOLUNTEERS!**



Volunteer Open House. If you are interested in joining this wonderful group of people, come to our Volunteer Open House on Thursday, January 10 at 6:30 PM to learn more about our program. If you are unable to make it then, please feel free to contact Robin Grumm, Volunteer Coordinator at 573-526-5544 ext. 3406 or Robin.Grumm@mdc.mo.gov.

Runge pays tribute to volunteer Pam Muffi. Runge staff and volunteers were saddened to learn of the death of Pam Muffi, who had been a Runge volunteer since 1999. Pam donated over 2,280 hours to the nature center. She was involved with the Nature's Needlers program which began in January 2005. Pam was a friend to all of us, and will be greatly missed.



Volunteer Milestones

The following VOLUNTEER Naturalists were recognized recently for their contributions to the programs at Runge. Congratulations!

300 hours

Nelson Dunn, Jeremy Rackers,
Andy Tribble

400 hours

Lynn Shively

1000 hours

Claudia Arnold

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located on 97 acres in the heart of central Missouri. Come discover and enjoy the wonders of Missouri's habitats and its array of fish, forests, and wildlife. Runge CNC is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179 (330 Commerce Dr.).

Lobby Exhibit

November/December

Rackley and Rewerts **Nature Photography**

Dan Rackley (Centralia) and Marcia Rewerts (Columbia) are Missouri natives and avid photographers that enjoy traveling and hiking the back roads, conservation areas, and gardens of their beloved state. They see each outing as a unique adventure full of surprises and opportunities to learn and observe nature. Both photographers are self-taught in manual digital photography.



Dan Rackley



Marcia Rewerts

HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM
Thursday 8 AM–8 PM
Closed Sunday, Monday, and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

TRAIL HOURS:

Open 6 AM–9 PM

For the Little Ones..

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.



Robin Grumm showing children a snake up-close and personal. These programs encourage parent and child participation in experiencing the outdoors.



discover nature programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide

Babes In The Woods

Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus caregiver.

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver.

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes program **AND** one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver. Please provide the ages of your children when making your reservation.

November Events

Registration begins November 1st

Turkey Talk

A turkey is a very funny bird, his head goes wobble, wobble, wobble. But the only thing a turkey says, is gobble, gobble, gobble! This month we will walk and talk turkey! Join us!

Little Acorns

November 6 • Tuesday • 10 AM
November 10 • Saturday • 10 AM
November 29 • Thursday • 10 AM

December Events

Registration begins December 1st

Animal Clues

I spy a raccoon or is it an opossum? How can you tell? This month we will learn about the various clues that help us to find out what animal was here! Come and be a nature detective with us.

Little Acorns

December 8 • Saturday • 10 AM
December 11 • Tuesday • 10 AM
December 18 • Tuesday • 10 AM

The Babes In the Woods and Little Acorns PLUS programs are taking time off. We will return in the spring with fresh new programs for the youngest among us. Watch for those dates in the March/April issue of *Habitat Happenings*.



Runge Calendar of Events - November

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided to you.



November Events

Registration begins November 1.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

On-going this month...



Nature Tales Along The Trail

Walk Naturecape

Trail and read

Fox in the

Forest by

Lorna Domke.

Choosing and Using Optics for Bird Watching

November 1 • Thursday • 6:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Knowing what kind of binoculars to use for your style of wildlife viewing can be a challenge. Steve and Regina Garr, from Birds-I-View in Jefferson City will be our guides this evening. They will help answer questions about the many different kinds of binoculars on the market. They will have an Optics 101 brochure to handout as a reference and they will help participants see the differences in a variety of binoculars.

The Runge Hiking Club: Davisdale Conservation Area

November 3 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

The Runge Hiking Club is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and earn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center, carpool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails.

This 2,701-acre Davisdale Conservation Area in Rocheport features over 800 acres of river, hills, and woodland. There are a series of scenic limestone bluffs carved by the Missouri River, which now flows 1.5 miles away. We will hike five miles, ***. Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

Midweek Trekkers: Bennett Spring State Park

November 7 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and earn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center, carpool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails.

We'll travel to one of our most popular state parks—Bennett Spring. We'll hike the Natural Tunnel Trail (7 miles, ***) to find a 296-foot-long, S-shaped tunnel – one of the largest, most beautiful natural tunnels in the state. Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

Homeschool: Winter Woodpeckers

November 9 • Friday • 1–2:30 PM

Registration required (8 years and older)

Winter is for the birds, and woodpeckers are no exception. Join us to learn all about these "hard-headed" avian friends through an indoor program, guided walk, and woodpecker craft. *Children ages 3-6 years will have their own woodpecker preschool program at the same time.

Nature's Needlers

November 15 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–12 PM • 1–2:30 PM • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18+)

In our eleventh of the "Butterflies in Flight" series, is it fact or fiction that animals can predict weather? Join us as we look at some of nature's weather-predictors, including one of the most common, the woolly bear caterpillar, and learn how to create a related quilt block.

Story Tree

November 17 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

No registration required (all ages)

Visit the nature center between 10 and 11 AM and find a volunteer naturalist ready to share a storybook or two with you.

Handcrafted Paper Making Naturally

November 17 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (children must be accompanied by an adult)

We will blend newspaper, magazines, even unwanted junk mail with pieces of nature—seeds, leaves, petals, and more - to create not just paper, but works of art! Discover how nature and recycling go hand-in-hand. Learn different techniques to try at home. Please bring a metal sheet cake pan, several magazines or catalogs, and a bath size towel.

Shopping Alternatives: The Elusive Black Bear

November 23 • Friday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

If you like to be elusive during the shopping season, come to Runge. The activities will include a bear discovery table, bear obstacle course, bear facts challenge, and more. Come be an elusive bear and hide out with us.

Puppet Theatre

November 24 • Saturday • 1 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Find your way to Runge's Puppet Theatre.

Where's My Group? Canada Goose is lost so asks for help finding her group. Ant and toad know heaps about animal groups so she asks them. Then she asks Owl and Butterfly whose flights give them views of more groups. Come discover if these, or other puppets help the goose.

My Home is Over There. Countless animal species share Missouri as their home. Wolf wants to know if she might be welcome sometime, too. She travels around learning about our conservation department's legacy of protection. You can learn, too, by joining Soft-shelled Turtle, and Largemouth Bass as they talk with puppet friends about living on MDC managed lands.

December Events

Registration begins December 1

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

The Runge Hiking Club: Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site

December 8 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM
Registration required (adults)

With a commanding view from atop a bluff, Bothwell Lodge State Historic Site, near Sedalia, is one of the best representations of early 20th century sensibilities in the Midwest. We will hike the Radiant Trail (3 miles, ***) which winds through the southeast part of the site, hugging the upper part of the wooded Stonyridge hills. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

Puppet Theatre

December 8 • Saturday • 1 PM
No registration required (all ages)

Find your way to Runge's Puppet Theatre for the following puppet shows.
Where's My Group? Canada Goose is lost so asks for help finding her group. Ant and toad know heaps about animal groups so she asks them. Then she asks Owl and Butterfly whose flights give them views of more groups. Come discover if these, or other puppets help the goose.

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Midweek Trekkers: Prairie Home Conservation Area

December 12 • Wednesday • 8:00 AM–5 PM

Registration required (adults)

Prairie Home Conservation Area straddles Cooper and Moniteau counties, and is a 1,461-acre mosaic of hardwood forests, old fields, prairies, creeks, and small ponds. We'll listen and watch for bobwhite, turkey, deer, and other wildlife residents as we hike on one of the trails (7 miles, ***). Meet at the nature center and carpool. Bring water and wear comfortable hiking shoes.

River Bluffs Audubon Society Presents: Missouri's Eastern Bluebirds in Winter

December 13 • Thursday • 7–8 PM
No registration required (adults)

Could the bluebird that greeted you in the spring or that pair of bluebirds you watched nest in your backyard this summer become year-round visitors to your home? How do bluebirds fare in Missouri's winter weather and are they "resident birds" or migrants from other areas? How does bluebird behavior differ in the winter months from spring and summer behavior? Steve Garr, president of the Missouri Bluebird Society and a former president of the North American Bluebird Society will share his research and that of other noted bluebirders.

Story Tree...on the Trail

December 15 • Saturday • 10–11 AM
No registration required (all ages)

Walk the Naturescape Trail between 10 and 11 AM and find a volunteer naturalist ready to share a storybook or two with you. (In case of inclement weather the Story Tree will come indoors.)

Nature's Needlers

December 20 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–12 PM • 1–2:30 PM • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18+)

In the final month of the "Butterflies in Flight" series, we focus on a once common moth species; the *Promethea* moth. Join us as we learn about this seldom seen moth and possible ways to attract it and introduce a related quilt block.

Cardinals and Coffee—A Bird Walk

December 27 • Thursday • 8–10:30 AM
Registration required (adult)

Join a naturalist for bird watching and shade-grown coffee. We will walk Runge's trails looking for the sights and sounds of birds. A few binoculars and identification books will be provided.

Holiday Happenings

December 27 • Thursday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 27 • Thursday • 5–7 PM

December 28 • Friday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 29 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Mark your calendars now for our annual open house event. This year it is **Holidays for the Birds!** Visit Runge during the December holidays for special bird activities inside and outside. There will be games, stories, refreshments, music, walks, special guests, and more! It's tradition!

Trail rating system

*Easiest trail (flat terrain with no obstructions)

**Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)

***Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots

****Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots

*****Most difficult (significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks)

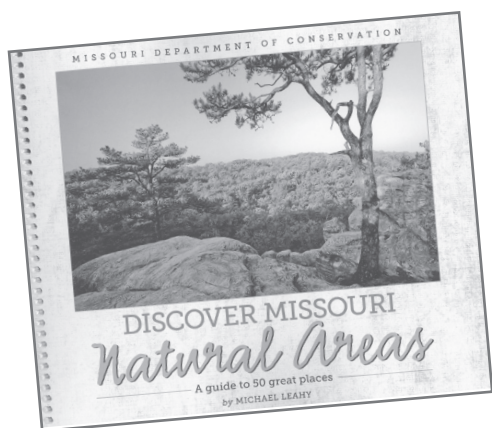
Gift Shop

Featured 20% off item

Kansas City Wildlands

\$4.80 plus tax

*Heritage Card discount
does not apply.*



Discover Missouri Natural Areas

\$9.00 plus tax

Heritage Card discount does not apply.

Backpacks

Get outside and Explore

Scout Packs

Runge Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please contact Becky at 573-526-5544 ext. 3408 for more information or to reserve one of the following scout packs.

Boy Scouts:

Wolf Cub: Elective #13 - Birds

Bear Cub: Achievement #5 - Sharing Your World with Wildlife

Webelos: Naturalist and Forester Pack(s). Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirement.



Adventure Packs

Check out our Adventure packs from the front desk the next time you visit the nature center. Choose between an ART AND NATURE pack, INSECT pack, AQUATIC pack, or a TRACKS AND SCAT pack to use while exploring the trails at the nature center. There are fun-filled ideas and tools inside each pack to help you DISCOVER NATURE.

**2013 Natural
Events Calendar
is here!**

\$7.00 plus tax



Hunter Education

Responsible, ethical behavior and personal involvement are essential to the survival of hunting.

Register online for all Hunter Education courses at

[<mdc.mo.gov/node/3477>](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/3477)

A complete listing of courses is included on this website.

These free 10-hour courses are required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. Students ages 11 and up must pass a test at the end of the course to be certified. Students under 15 years old must be accompanied by an adult and show proof of age. If you have any previous Missouri hunting or fishing permits or a Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, bring them to class.

Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.



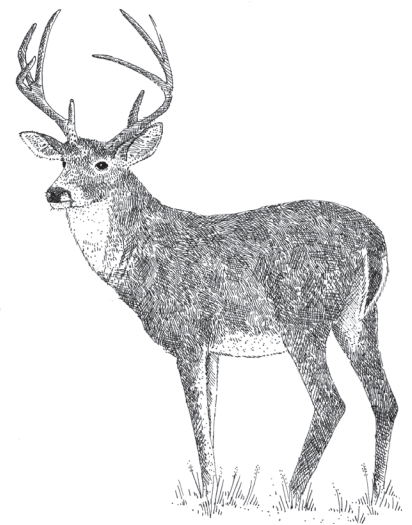
When you make your reservation 573-526-5544, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

Oh Deer!

November 13 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (November 1 through 9)

White-tailed deer are an important part of our natural resources and heritage. Leap at the chance to play an "Oh Deer" game and discover deer biology.



There will be no December meeting. Bubba will be busy preparing for the holidays. It has been a great 2012 and Bubba is excited about the upcoming new year. See you in 2013! Enjoy holiday time with your families.

Parents/Guardians! While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, November 13. **Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.**

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December 27 • Thursday • 5–7 PM

December 28 • Friday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 29 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

No registration required.



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It's tradition!

Eagle Adventure

January 12 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

- Live Eagle Presentations
- Eagle Viewing Sites with high-powered scopes.

More details in the January/February issue.

